

Escondido Neighbors United

An alliance of engaged residents working for the benefit of rural, urban, and natural communities in the Escondido Area.
July 28, 2015

Mr. Wayne Chiu, Ms. Christina Arias, and Ms. Laurie Walsh
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego - Region 9
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, California 92108

Re: ENU comments on *San Dieguito Water Quality Improvement Plan*

Dear Mr. Chiu, Ms. Arias, and Ms. Walsh:

Escondido Neighbors United (ENU) is a local organization of neighbors concerned about the quality of life and our environment in Escondido. We have been very involved in the water quality issues in SW Escondido—particularly Felicita Creek and Lake Hodges.

We have understood the new MS4 permit was to be a new approach that would lead to improved water quality through requiring, or at the very minimum, incentivizing copermittee actions above and beyond what had been required to date. We have not reviewed all of the WQIPs but are very concerned with the very limited selection of ‘Highest Priority’ water quality issues to be addressed. In the case of the San Dieguito WQIP, there is only one highest priority and it is located in Del Mar. Our watershed needs more attention than just one, end-of-pipe priority.

We support the recommendations made in separate letters by San Diego Coastkeeper, San Diego Audubon Society, and Laura Hunter, a member of the WQIP Consultation Committee.

We wish to strengthen the WQIPs to:

- Designate additional water quality priorities
- Designate Felicita Park as a high priority
- Prohibit the sale and use of invasive plants in the watershed
- Increase the required actions for retrofitting existing development
- Increase the requirements for new development such as requiring rainwater harvesting and xeriscaping in new projects
- Increase commitment to restoring local streams and habitats
- Copermittees should choose numeric goals and strategies that will be capable of demonstrating progress in cleaning up our local waterways.

These are just a few of the areas where the WQIPs should be strengthened. Please keep us apprised of any future opportunities to comment or participate in this process.

Sincerely,



Carolina Valder

